

The GARZETTE

January, 2000

Volume 11, Issue 1



Y2K

Happy
New Year!

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FCC Announces Amateur Radio Restructuring

Questions, comments, and some confusion have been the order of the day since the FCC finally dropped the other shoe on Amateur Radio restructuring on December 30. The FCC's momentous action—reducing the number of license classes to three and establishing 5 WPM as the sole Morse code examination element—has, at least for now, polarized the Amateur Radio community. It also promises to change the complexion of Amateur Radio as it enters the new millennium.

More than half of those responding to an informal poll on the ARRL Web site indicate they



plan to upgrade during 2000. Demand for study materials in the past week suggests many amateurs will be hitting the books in the coming weeks.

After April 15, 2000, the FCC will only issue Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses. Novice and Advanced licensees will re-

tain current operating privileges and may renew indefinitely. The FCC's new licensing scheme simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra. Applicants will only have to pass one Morse code test, and there are fewer written examinations and total questions.

"This is the best news I have heard since bread and butter!" exclaimed Jimmy Stewart, WD9FHY, who said he's been trying unsuccessfully for years to boost his code proficiency. On the other side were some who asserted that the revised requirements would

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The President's Pen

By David Adcock, KA4KKF

January 1, 2000. Well, we made it without any trouble. It's a new century and a New Year. What more could you ask for? Amateur Radio got its wish. The new structure go into effect on tax day, April 15, 2000. I'm

sure this will be the topic of discussion for the next 3 months. I for one think it's about time.

There'll be discussion on how this will make it like CB radio in the 70's. I think the only way that will happen is if

we don't train the new person. To help train the new person, we'll need the operator that can pass on the old traditions. **Training is where it is.** The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society must step

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The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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ARES Report

By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z

Whew!!!! Y2K was OK. This will be the last time you'll hear from me on this subject, Hi Hi. Even though the New Year came in rather quietly, the ARES members provided a feeling of comfort to the Gwinnett County emergency services by being present at their facilities. We were complimented by several of the services including Frank Daniell of the EMA Dept. As a matter of fact, we have been asked to cover the Dec. 31st 1999 event!!! Anyway, those wishing to sign up for that ahead of time can contact me, Hi Hi. No problems were reported from any of the county facilities and one piece of formal traffic was handled from the Cobb County EOC.

All facilities were covered with some last minute volunteers and moving a couple of people around to different locations. I don't have a report of how the packet user's communications worked out yet but can't wait to see how things went with them.

This was the largest planned activation we've had so far with me being EC for the county and I'm very proud of our group. First you sacrificed your New Year's Eve for this operation. Then you bought emergency related equipment, constructed antennas, had ID badges made, attended planning meetings and most of all, listened to those long two-meter nets with Y2K updates!! Yes, those long nets are over. Final thought here on Y2K; Gwinnett ARES Y2K net was a success and provided a beneficial community service even though we didn't go into emergency activation. The county EMA was pleased with us, the media gave us some publicity and as far as I know today, we were the only group in GA that actually had all their county facilities covered that night. Thank you



Gwinnett ARES members for your hard work. We have, in the last 6 months, constructed a firm foundation with the Gwinnett County EMA services that will last for a long time. This was a goal of mine when becoming EC to accomplish and with all of you, have accomplished it. Way to go.

OK, now on to our year 2000 activities. Did I hear someone say severe weather? Yes, believe it or not, our "prime time season" is fast approaching. Tentatively, I'm hoping Barry Gooden will teach a beginner's SKYWARN class for the county employees and us during the third week of February. This will be announced as soon as we get info. Steve Strong will be teaching a CPR class, we'll have another "Handling Formal Traffic" class and other classes will be listed as the year progresses. The State ARES yearly meeting will be held at the GSP facility in Forsyth, GA. on Sat., Jan. 22nd (everyone is invited to attend) and the GARS Tech Fest is coming up on Sat., Jan. 29th.

I want to thank Pat (KE4IKC) and Jan (KF4TMO) Kelley for their time during the last two years conducting the Monday evening two-meter nets. They are going to take a well-deserved rest from these duties beginning Jan. 4th.

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ARES Report

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They're not leaving ARES though, just taking a break from heading up the nets. We'll still see them at all of our activities. Jeff Harrison (KD4GPI) will take over the duties of assigning the net control stations for future nets. While on the subject of thanking people, I want to thank Jan for her role in filling at least 75% of the positions we covered for the Y2K net. She was instrumental in filling those facilities with operators, which took a big load off my shoulders. Thanks Jan. I also want to thank Chris Wren (KD4DTS) for letting us use his personal web page to post our Y2K list during the last three months. This gave us a convenient place to post changes and needs for operation.

OK, take a break for a few days and then we'll get back into the swing of things later on this month. Thanks again Gwinnett ARES. You did a great job and it was noticed by several agencies even outside of Gwinnett County. Next article I'll have the winner of the coveted "Y2K" ARES vest that so many of you hope to win.

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Random Ramblings

"There are no exceptions to the rule that everybody likes to be an exception to the rule."

- George Osner

"I want to stay as close to the edge as I can without going over. Out on the edge you see all kinds of things you can't see from the center."

- Kurt Vonnegut

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The President's Pen

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forward as a club and provide training to the newcomers and pass along the tradition and heritage of Amateur Radio so the spirit will never die. This club has a depth of experience that hasn't been touched yet. We must keep an active education program, demonstrations, social activities, and fundraisers. GARS should be the place to come to for amateur radio operations in Gwinnett County. If this is to happen, then GARS will need everyone to help with a function sometimes during the year. **I believe the amateur radio clubs must step forward and train the new operators.** We'll talk more on this subject later.

January is the month we nominate officers for election in February. The following positions must be filled, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Manager.

A New Year and we start again. The techfest is coming up on the 29th. The dog shows, Hamfests, Picnics, contests, field day, demonstrations, classes, and foxhunts are some of the things that this club does for fun. If you would like to be a part of the fun, then come on out to the club meeting every month. We meet on the third Thursday of every month at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Anyone on the repeater will be happy to give you directions. The meeting time is 7:30 p.m. Hope to see you there.

73,
David
KA4KKF

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K2BSA/4 At Gold Rush 1999

By Earl Whatley, AF4FG

Things got off to a noisy start. The Army generator was parked next to the pavilion where the amateur radio stations were to go and the noise echoed off the rafters. You couldn't easily talk to someone next to you let alone have a radio conversation with a ham in another state. The generator was moved and its noise was replaced by the sounds of 3500 scouts setting up camp and preparing to participate in the Northeast Georgia Council's Gold Rush 1999 rendezvous.

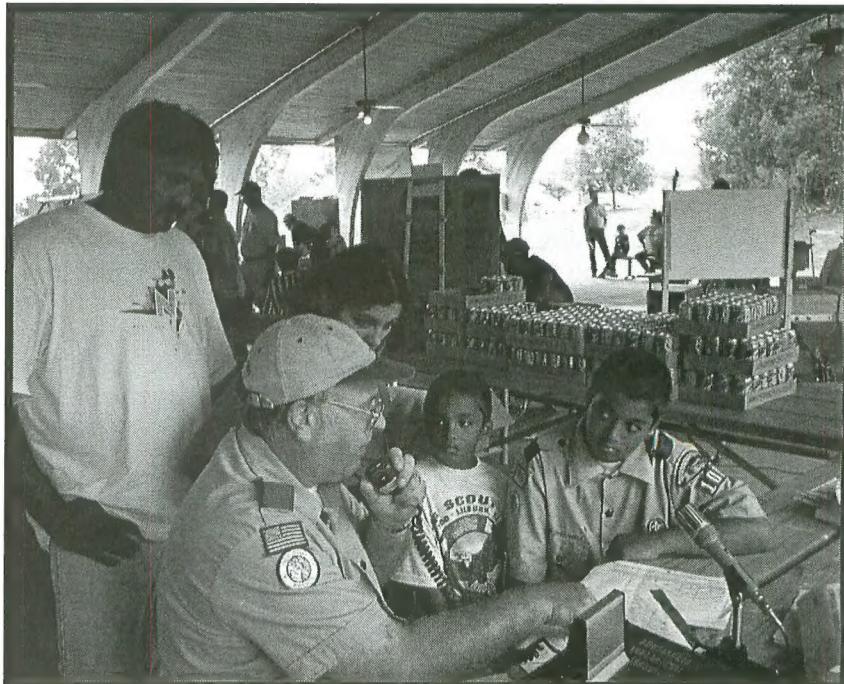
While tents and chuck boxes went up so did antennas and antenna towers. By late evening the scouts were set and so were nine amateur radio operators. At the first call, a ham in lower Slovenia answered. Things were ready for Saturday morning.

Before breakfast Saturday morning an Amateur Television (ATV) camera attached to a weather balloon was launched and tethered above the Cub Scout activity area. The black and white picture was transmitted back to the amateur radio pavilion where a cable ready TV was tuned to channel 59. The picture was a little fuzzy but worked fine until inclement weather forced a move to a more sheltered area. The rest of the day scouts were able to watch the activities in the technology area over ATV.

At 8:45 the flag was raised and shortly thereafter scouts began pouring into pavilion where amateur radio station K2BSA /4 was already operating. The interactive exhibit on Morse code was an instant hit with all the scouts and the exhibits on radio wave propagation and antique radios drew attention from older scouts and scouters. But operating the radio drew the biggest crowds.

Two at a time the boys had the opportunity to sit at one of the five stations and listen while GARS vol-

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Steve Back, WB2OGY, an Assistant Scoutmaster prepares to hand the microphone to two Cub Scouts.



Mike, K4HBI, and Susan, AF4FO Swiderski, instruct scouts on proper radio procedure.

K2BSA/4 At Gold Rush 1999

By Earl Whatley, AF4FG

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unteers and other hams from the area made contact with hams from the United States and around the world. In most cases the boys got to say hello and have a brief conversation. As a contact was made each scout wrote the name and location of the ham they talked to on a slip of paper. Later they pinned the paper on a U.S. or world map in the appropriate location.

During the weekend K2BSA /4 made 201 contacts with hams in 37 states and 15 foreign countries. Over 600 boys sat by a radio and talked. Many signed up for information about the new ham radio venture crew. Amateur radio has been a part of scouting for many years and if the enthusiasm shown at Gold Rush 1999 is any indication, it will be a part of scouting well into the next millennium.

At their annual business meeting, the Northeast Georgia Council of the Boy Scouts of America presented a special award to GARS as a "thank you" for their assistance in making Gold Rush 1999 a success. While we pat ourselves on the back let's give a special thanks to all those GARS members (and other hams) that helped make this event a success.

David Adcock, KA4KKF; Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Steve Back, WB2OGY; Dale Baldwin, WB0QGH; Bob Butler, KG4DUA; Jim Daniel, AE4HS; Carol Gann, KG4ETR; Victor Gann, W4VEG; Dale Goodman, KD4KCR; Win Jackson, N1TWX; Andy Liakos, KF4DAO; Buddy Menshew, KE4YZS; Anita Morris, KG4AJX; Rick Morris, KD4VOJ; Brian Page, N4TRD; Mike Swiderski, K4HBI; Susan Swiderski, AF4FO; Robert Tyler, KF4VBR; Earl Whatley, AF4FG; Carter Wood, KF4HLF; David Ziskind, KE4QLH.



After making a contact, each scout marked the location of the ham operator with whom he spoke.



K2BSA /4 was one of the larger activity areas

FCC Announces Amateur Radio Restructuring

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contribute to a further decline of Amateur Radio and open the doors to "riff-raff."

The ARRL Board of Directors is expected to review the FCC Report and Order and discuss its implications when it meets January 21-22 in Memphis.

In a significant step, the FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The nation's Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, including the ARRL-VEC, now are under the gun to meet the plan's April 15 implementation date. "The Question Pool Committee has been meeting by telephone and e-mail to get the updating process under way," said ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "It's anticipated that the QPC will put out a news release soon that indicates when the updated question pools will be available to the public." Jahnke said the revised question pools will be out "well in advance" of April 15.

No one loses any privileges under the FCC's new plan, and, with one limited exception, no licensee is in a position to automatically gain any privileges when April 15 rolls around. The FCC's action establishes the Technician license—with or without Morse code credit—as the entry-level ticket to Amateur Radio. Technician applicants passing the 5 WPM Morse code exam will gain current Tech Plus HF privileges. The current "no-code" Tech license will continue to be available. Technician applicants opting to not take the code test will gain current Technician VHF/UHF privileges. After April 15, 2000, the FCC will

lump Technician and Technician Plus licensees into a single "Technician" database. Despite the name change, current Tech Plus licensees won't lose any privileges.

Similarly, current General and Amateur Extra class holders will continue to enjoy their current privileges. The FCC took no action to reallocate any amateur bands.

The new licensing regime has four examination elements: Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code test; Element 2, a 35-question Technician test; Element 3, a 35-question General test, and Element 4, a 50-question Amateur Extra test. The new Amateur Extra test is expected to combine the important elements of the current Advanced and Amateur Extra examinations. Only minor changes are anticipated in the new General class examination. The new Technician exam likely will include some questions on HF operating from the current Novice test.

The new licensing plan created a lone and limited upgrade for those who held a Technician license or a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) before March 21, 1987. Those individuals may claim credit for a new General class license. This is because there was a single Technician-General written test under the old system; only the code tests differed. The upgrade is not automatic, however. Affected individuals will have to apply through a Volunteer Examiner test session, complete Form 605, attach documentary proof of having completed the requirements for a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987, and pay an application fee, if any, to the VEC.

Judging from the questions coming into ARRL HQ, many hams want to know whether to upgrade now or wait for the new system. If you're either a Tech Plus or an Advanced licensee, there might be an

advantage to taking an exam now. The FCC has told the League that current Tech Plus licensees holding a valid CSCE for Element 3B may apply for a General class upgrade when the new rules become effective. Likewise, current Advanced licensees holding a valid CSCE for Element 4B may apply for an Amateur Extra class upgrade under the new system. To be valid on April 15, 2000, any such CSCE will have to be dated on or after April 17, 1999. A CSCE is only good for 365 days. CSCE holders must attend a Volunteer Examiner session, complete Form 605, attach a valid CSCE, and pay any required application fee (\$6.65 for the ARRL-VEC).

The reduced Morse code requirement hit a nerve with some hams who felt it "devalued" their upper-class licenses. Others, however, felt it minimized an unnecessary obstacle. The FCC said it believes a demonstration of Morse proficiency does not necessarily indicate an individual's "ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," as the FCC put it. The Commission also said it was not convinced that Morse proficiency had any particular value to emergency preparedness.

The reduction in the Morse code requirement was not entirely unexpected. Several other countries already have lowered their Morse code examination requirements, and some observers believe the Morse requirement will disappear altogether once it's eliminated in the international Radio Regulations. The FCC said it opted for the "least burdensome requirement" as its sole Morse standard. While the 13 and 20 WPM code tests soon will be history, the FCC said that "provisions must remain in place for accommodating individuals with se-

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FCC Announces Amateur Radio Restructuring

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vere disabilities."

The Morse code issue is expected to be on the agenda of a future World Radiocommunication Conference. The FCC said it would not automatically "sunset" the Morse code requirement even if Morse code is eliminated from the international radio regulations.

Frequently Asked Questions on restructuring are available at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/faq.html>. A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf> or at http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt.

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Random Ramblings

"If we don't change direction soon, we'll end up where we're going."

--Professor Irwin Corey

"Water, taken in moderation, cannot hurt anybody."

-- Mark Twain



ENHANCED AMATEUR ENFORCEMENT ENTERS A NEW YEAR

As the new year gets under way, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth hinted he might have to break bad on hard-core offenders this year. He explained that poor or lax FCC enforcement in the past led him to be more forgiving of rule-breakers during his first full calendar year in the enforcement chair. Now, those who persist in operating outside of the stated basis and purpose of Amateur Radio "are beginning to try our patience," he said. "I can't say we're going to be as compassionate this year."

Hollingsworth said he expected to continue his focus on incursions into the 10-meter band by unlicensed operators, especially as propagation gets better, and on equipment certification issues. "We're very concerned about the illegal equipment we see for sale at hamfests," he explained.

Overall, however, malicious interference remains "the basic problem," as he put it. "We're going to use the High-Frequency Direction Finding Center at Laurel [Maryland] more this year" to track down rulebreakers, he said. In addition, Hollingsworth now has enhanced monitoring tools at his Gettysburg office, allowing him access to the HFDF Center's 14 antenna fields plus VHF-UHF "pods" that can be moved around as necessary. "We have dial-in capabilities to all of our antenna fields and to the pods, so we can cover HF, UHF, and VHF anywhere in the country, right here from the Gettysburg office," he explained.

"It's a force multiplier, so to speak," Hollingsworth said of the new capabilities.

Hollingsworth also says he's upbeat about the future of ham radio and the FCC's Amateur Radio

restructuring plan announced December 30. "I'm really optimistic about it," he said this week. "I think that it's a good idea to simplify things a little bit as far as the number of license classes," he added, referring to the new three-tiered system.

Hollingsworth said he believes Amateur Radio needs more young blood to keep it going in the future, and he thinks the new licensing system that becomes effective April 15 might help in that regard. He declined, however, to comment further on the specific policies and rules the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau laid down in its Report and Order, saying it would not be appropriate.

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Random Ramblings

"If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything."

- Mark Twain

"Famous remarks are very seldom quoted correctly."

- Simeon Strunsky

"I believe that professional wrestling is clean and everything else in the world is fixed."

-- Frank Deford



MISSISSIPPI TELEPHONE RFI CASE TABLED

A Mississippi ham arrested for interfering with his neighbors' telephones is breathing a bit more easily today. ARRL member Bennie Stewart, KJ6TY, of Meridian, was arrested and charged September 10 after a neighbor filed a complaint with the Lauderdale County Justice Court. At the request of Lauderdale County Attorney Robert Compton, the court has ordered the case to be placed in its "inactive files."

Stewart's attorney, Felicia Perkins of Jackson, says the action essentially ends the case against her client. "For all practical purposes, it's in a box somewhere, and it's going to sit there unless Congress changes the laws," she said.

If he'd been convicted, the 61-year-old Stewart—who's confined to a wheelchair and says he has limited physical abilities—faced a fine of up to \$500, six months in jail, or both.

Perkins had requested, on Stewart's behalf, that the Justice Court throw out the complaint on the grounds that only the FCC had jurisdiction. The court had been considering the motion since last fall. The December 28, 1999, Order sending the criminal action to the inactive files maintained that the Justice Court "does have jurisdiction over the subject criminal matters, but that the state court's jurisdiction has been preempted by federal law". Perkins said the order means the Justice Court cannot exercise any jurisdiction it may have had. "There are no other proceedings against my client," she said.

A ham for 12 years, Stewart had appeared in court October 26 to respond to the complaint, brought under a Mississippi law that makes it illegal to "intentionally obstruct, injure, break or destroy, or in any manner interrupt any telegraph or telephone line or communication thereon between any two points."

Perkins said the Mississippi Justice Court provides a legal forum for resolving disputes, something like small claims court. Justice Court judges do not have to be attorneys, she explained. An appeal to a higher court could have been "very, very expensive" for Stewart, she said. "Sometimes it's best to put things to an end—especially when the law is so clear—at the Justice Court level."

The case attracted the attention of the Amateur Radio community and has been the subject of Internet news group discussions. Stewart said that before his arrest in the telephone interference case he never was in any kind of legal trouble. A retired photographer, Stewart says he's suffered from muscular dystrophy since he was a teenager. The Mississippi native had moved to California after his retirement, but moved back to Mississippi in 1993.

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Random Ramblings

"Man is the only animal that can remain on friendly terms with the victims he intends to eat until he eats them."

--Samuel Butler

"The trouble with jogging is that the ice falls out of your glass."

- Martin Mull



Dog Breeds

By Carter Wood, KF4HLF

Since it's almost time for us to work the February dog show, let's take a look at some breeds that we won't see there.

Deerhound + Terrier = Derriere, a dog that's true to the end

Spitz + Chow Chow = Spitz-Chow, a dog that throws up a lot

Kerry Blue Terrier + Skye Terrier = Blue Skye, a dog for visionaries

Great Pyrenees + Dachshund = Pyradachs, a puzzling breed

Pekingnese + Lhasa Apso = Peekasso, an abstract dog

Irish Water Spaniel + English Springer Spaniel = Irish Springer, a dog fresh and clean as a whistle

Labrador Retriever + Curly Coated Retriever = Lab Coat Retriever, the choice of research scientists

Newfoundland + Basset Hound = Newfound Asset Hound, a dog for financial advisors

Terrier + Bulldog = Terribull, a dog that makes awful mistakes

Bloodhound + Labrador = Blabador, a dog that barks incessantly

Collie + Malamute = Commute, a dog that travels to work with you

Bloodhound + Borzoi = Bloody Bore, a dog that's not much fun

Pointer + Setter = Poinsette, a traditional Christmas pet

Collie + Lhasa Apso = Collapso, a dog that folds up for easy transport

Malamute + Pointer = Moot Point, owned by...oh, well, it doesn't matter anyway



Tech Fest '00

By Barry Zoll, N1TOQ



With Christmas and Y2K behind us, the time has come for Tech Fest '00. This year's event will be the best yet. So, what is Tech Fest?

The idea of Tech Fest was first tested 3 years ago when Kevin Berry, KF4RMA expressed interest in an event who's primary function was to expose members of the community to the many facets of Amateur Radio. Unlike Field day, this is not a contest or race. It is a chance to experience parts of our hobby that we might never have seen. It's a chance to hear the truth about radios and antennas, without the flashy spin that a salesperson might put on it. It is an event that encourages the free exchange of ideas and knowledge. The first two fests were well attended and enjoyed by all. There's no reason not to attend.

This year, the Tech Fest will be held at the Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville (our monthly meeting place) The date is January 29, 2000 from 11 AM until 3 PM. We will also be conducting our 3rd annual Chili Contest, which showcases the finest chili that Gwinnett County has to offer. We will have a fully operational HF Station, a QRP demonstration, and a table dedicated to 12 volt and radio theory. In addition, there will be a Packet station in action, a collection of "old time" radios (by a real old-timer), and a display of Computer programming your VHF/UHF radio and an expert from the Battery Industry. This year, we will have an Antenna Building Seminar at which an HF antenna will be constructed and used at Field Day '00. There will also be representatives from the ARRL, ARES, and SouthCARS.

So what can you do to support Tech Fest '00 ? We are still looking for additional displays as they relate to Amateur Radio. We also invite you bring your best Chili and Corn Bread. We are also in need of desserts or any other culinary creation you wish. The club will provide, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks.

Please contact me at 770-277-5175, 678-339-2565, or N1TOQ@bellsouth.net so that I can have an accurate count of Chili, desserts, or displays. I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your support.

Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House

5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody
Dutch dinner is at 6:30 PM, followed by meeting.
Talk In 145.410(-)

Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club

American Red Cross Building, Lindberg Plaza
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Jefferson Civic Center
Off of Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)

Second Wednesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Ryan's Steak House
Alpharetta Highway (Hwy 9), Alpharetta
Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Killian Hall, Killian Hill Road
Lilburn
Dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
Dunwoody
Meeting is at 10:00 AM
Talk In - 145.410(-) and 443.025(+)

Third THURSDAY



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church
Gwinnett Drive
Lawrenceville

Meeting begins at 7:30 PM in the fellowship hall.
Talk In -147.075(+) and 444.525(+)
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Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

First Sunday

WCARS VEC

2:00 PM

(Except July and September)
Johnson High School
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainesville
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

First Saturday

9:00AM

Clayton County Emergency
Management Building
7496 N. McDonough St., Jonesboro
George White, KN4NG (770)361-6850

Second Tuesday

7:00PM

Walton EMC
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA
(770)498-7759

Second Saturday

CA VEC

8:30 AM

Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Hal Martin, KI4RD
(770)978-9160

Third Saturday

CA VEC

9:00AM

Marietta First United Methodist Church
Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave
Marietta
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ
(770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC

7:00 PM

United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK
(770)942-6466.

Fourth Friday

W5YI VEC

7:00 PM

St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road
Lilburn
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Howie Gould, W4NWF
(770)921-8362

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Remote Receive Sites

Bogon Road, Buford
Goshen Springs Road, Norcross
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

70 Cm Repeater

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Lanier Mountain, Snellville

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From The Editor's Desk

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

And then there was one. I announced several months ago that I would be stepping down as newsletter editor following the February elections. That means that next month's issue will be my last. As I write this, I don't know of anyone that has stepped forward to take over the reigns. For that matter, I haven't heard anyone express any interest in taking the job at all.

I certainly hope that in the next few weeks someone decides to step forward and take over. I'd hate for March to roll around and our newsletter be a one sheet mailing with the minutes and maybe a note from the President. Certainly with the talent pool we have in this club there is at least one person that can or will take on this task.

Now I'd like to switch hats a minute and talk about our ARES



group here in Gwinnett County. I had the job on New Year's Eve of being net control from the Emergency Operations Center. I don't if you realize it or not but every single facility that was asked by the county EMA to be covered has at least one amateur radio set up at that location. This is a tribute to the leadership provided by Lowry, KM4Z as County EC and to all those that

took the time to participate.

I would also like to comment on the net operations from that net. We had, in my opinion, a good net from start to end. The mark of a good controlled net is to transmit information when needed and otherwise remain in standby. This was certainly true of our net on New Year's Eve. I know it gets boring at times and the temptation is to pick up microphone and make sure that everything is still running, I thought about that several times. But the frequency needs to be clear in case we do need to switch into a mode of handling emergency traffic.

Thanks to all those that were out there on that foggy and thankfully quiet night.

